

HOUSE OF PRAYER CHURCH  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

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HOUSE OF PRAYER CHURCH, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County,  
Pennsylvania

This congregation was organized as a mission in 1860. The church cornerstone was laid in 1862 with consecration following in 1863. A rectory was built in 1908 with a parish house following several years later in 1925. The congregation achieved the status as an aided parish in 1960. The present stone church structure seats 170 persons and is in fair condition with several improvements needed, foremost among which are the installation of plumbing and toilet facilities. The building's replacement value has been estimated at \$50,000.00. Insurance accounts for \$35,000.00. The parish house, a two-story stone and brick building, is located a short distance from the church. Its value has been estimated at \$70,000.00, with insurance amounting to \$55,000.00. The building is in need of extensive renovation and repair. The rectory, a stone structure of 9 rooms, is also located on the church grounds. The building is in fair condition and some major improvements are necessary. The estimated replacement value is \$30,000.00, with insurance coverage in the amount of \$21,300.00.

Referral may be made to Pages K-4 through K-6 of the Church Self-Study Form for a more detailed history of the congregation and a description of the church properties.

THE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD

During the last few years, several changes have been occurring in the neighborhood. Predominant

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among the changes has been the ethnic composition of the population, characterized by an outflow of white families and an influx of non-whites into the area. Despite the many problems which have resulted from these changes, the House of Prayer Church has been attempting an effective ministry to its community.

For the purposes of this Study, an arbitrary parish area has been assigned to the House of Prayer Church. Conforming to United States Census Bureau divisions, this area includes Census Tracts PH-49-A to E, 50-D and 50-P. The House of Prayer Church is located in Census Tract 49-B. The total population of this arbitrarily assigned parish area was 39,993 persons in 1960.

With the exception of Census Tract 49-E, no statistics were available on the population of the tracts in the area in 1950. Of the 6,152 individuals in Census Tract 49-B in 1960, 16.3% comprised children 14 years of age and under, 15.5% consisted of adults 65 years of age and over, and 22.5% comprised non-whites. The following chart is included for further study. Note that in Census Tract 49-C almost one-fourth of the population consisted of children 14 years of age and under, and that the concentration of non-whites was highest in this area with 59.5%. Further, with the exception of Census Tract 49-C, adults 65 years of age and over constituted the significant portion of the population, and would tend to suggest the possible expiration of a specialized ministry to the people in this age bracket.

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CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	POPULATION		% CHANGE	% 14 & 65 & UNDER OVER		% NON-WHITE
	1950	1960				
PH-49-B	NA	6,152	-	16.3	15.8	22.5
49-A	NA	3,759	-	17.2	13.4	0.2
49-C	NA	9,542	-	27.4	8.3	59.5
49-D	NA	5,915	-	16.9	23.1	0.7
49-E	4,927	4,540	-7.9	21.5	16.0	0.5
50-D	NA	4,290	-	14.9	20.7	0.3
50-P	NA	5,795	-	23.1	14.2	9.1
TOTAL		39,993				19.2

CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	NON-WHITE POPULATION		% CHANGE	RESIDENCE 1960 SAME AS 1955 PERCENT	PUERTO RICANS 1960	FAMILY MED. INCOME
	1950	1960				
PH-49-B	NA	1,387	-	49.7	0	5,889
49-A	NA	6	-	60.7	5	6,723
49-C	NA	5,673	-	41.6	24	6,077
49-D	NA	40	-	63.3	0	7,241
49-E	21	22	4.8	67.5	0	6,678
50-D	NA	13	-	54.0	0	6,671
50-P	NA	527	-	63.6	0	5,991
		7,668				

Information is also available on the educational characteristics of the adults 25 years of age and over residing in the parish area. In Census Tract 49-B, 26.9% of the 1960 population consisted of high school graduates, 8.3% had received from one to three years of college training, and 6.9% comprised college graduates. The median educational level of the adults in this census tract was 10.8 years. The median age for males was 41.0 years and the median age for females was 46.1 years. Census Tract 50-D had the highest percentage of college trained persons, as well as the highest median age for females. The median educational level was lowest in Census Tract 49-D. Additional information

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regarding the educational characteristics of the tracts in the area may be obtained from the following chart.

CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	EDUCATION OF ADULTS 25 YRS. OF AGE & OVER					
	%	%	%	MED.		
	H.S. GRAD.	COLLEGE 1-3 YRS.	COLLEGE GRAD.	MED. EDUC.	AGE M	AGE F
PH-49-B	26.9	8.3	6.9	10.8	41.0	46.1
49-A	30.4	9.4	8.9	11.8	41.3	44.5
49-C	24.5	6.1	6.9	10.6	29.7	32.9
49-D	23.9	5.4	6.6	9.8	43.5	47.5
49-E	24.1	7.7	9.3	10.8	38.5	44.9
50-D	28.2	11.2	12.4	12.1	43.5	49.3
50-P	23.6	6.0	5.5	10.0	34.7	40.1

It should be noted that the median family income was also included in the information supplied in the above chart. Census Tract 49-D had the highest median family income, followed by Census Tract 49-A, 49-E, and 50-D. The median family income was lowest in Census Tract 49-B which includes the House of Prayer Church.

As stated previously, the total population of this arbitrarily assigned parish area was 39,993 persons in 1960. Of this number, 863, or 2.2%, were Episcopalians. Of this group, 315, representing 36.5% of the Episcopalians in the parish area, were members of the House of Prayer Church. These individuals comprised 83.1% of the total mapped membership of the congregation. Of the 6,152 persons in Census Tract 49-B in 1960, 182, or 3.0%, were Episcopalians. Of this group, 94 were members of the House of Prayer Church. Census Tract 49-C had the highest concentration of Episcopalians, followed by 49-B and 49-D. The lowest

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number of Episcopalians were in Census Tract 49-A. Membership in the House of Prayer Church was highest in Census Tract 49-C. Of the 142 Episcopalians located in Census Tract 49-E and 50-D, none was a member of the House of Prayer Church. The following chart offers additional information.

CENSUS TRACT OR ZONE	TOTAL POP.	TOTAL EPIS.	% OF POP. EPIS.	TOTAL PARISH MEMB.	% EPIS. MEMB.	% PARISH MEMB.
PH-49-B	6,152	182	3.0	94	51.6	24.8
49-A	3,759	50	1.3	5	10.0	1.3
49-C	9,542	263	2.8	190	72.2	50.1
49-D	5,915	136	2.3	1	0.7	0.3
49-E	4,540	76	1.7	0	-	-
50-D	4,290	66	1.5	0	-	-
50-P	5,795	90	1.6	25	27.8	6.6
	39,993	863	2.2	315	36.5	83.1

Pages K-1 through K-3 of the Church Self-Study Form list the public and private schools as well as the other religious denominations that are to be found in the church neighborhood.

THE CHURCH PROGRAM

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On an average Sunday, approximately 57.3% of the baptized membership is present for services at the House of Prayer Church. This percentage compares favorably with the 45 to 50% average that exists in most Episcopal churches throughout the United States. The Church Self-Study Form notes that attendance has improved somewhat as the result of changes in the schedule of services.

The church school lists an enrollment of 135 students and a staff of 10. Classes are offered to children of nursery school age through teen-agers. Materials are good, as are the mechanics for the recruitment, training, and supervision of teaching personnel. The Local Study Group notes that the major problems facing this school include lack of adequate equipment, facilities that are not conducive to the maintenance of effective teaching, and inadequacy of the present program of teacher-training.

During the last two weeks in July the House of Prayer Church operates a vacation church school for three hours daily. A total of 93 children attended in 1963, with 65 being regular pupils in the congregation's church school. There were eight teachers and five assistants.

It should be mentioned that this congregation, in its effort to assist young students, has been soliciting qualified teachers for their tutorial school. This is a commendable effort and can become a shining example of the effectiveness of this church's ministry in this area.

General adult education appears to be limited to 10 persons who participate in Inquirer's classes. The

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vicar serves as a leader for these classes. The Church Self-Study Form notes that attempts are being made to introduce formal study programs in the Guilds of the congregation, as well as to expand upon present efforts in the educational program for adults.

Of 90 adult women in this congregation, 64 are active in the affairs of three organizations. Of 57 adult men, 23 participate in the activities of one organization. There are two organizations for both men and women with 31 individuals participating in their activities. There is evidence of activities to interest the youth of the congregation and the community. Characteristic of the organizations submitting individual reports, is their desire to extend the level of participation by the members of the congregation in their activities. In addition, attempts at greater contact with the community, especially other religious denominations, are also being made. There appears to be a need for instituting formal programs of education as part of the regular activities of these individual organizations.

A total of eight clergymen, including the incumbent vicar, have served this congregation since 1921. As a result of the work of the House of Prayer Church, two members of the parish entered Holy Orders. One licensed lay reader assists the vicar at services.

Financial statistics submitted for this Study show that of an income of approximately \$6,585.04, \$3,953.85, or 60% of the income, is received through pledges. Computed on an individual basis, the average pledge per communicant amounts to \$17.89, which is well below the national average of \$56.00. The Church

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Self-Study Form notes that the finances of the congregation have been improving as a result of the expansion of the church's program. It is obvious that the congregation is aware of the need for increasing the level of stewardship, particularly in view of its desire to minister more effectively to the members as well as to the community in general. The need, purpose, and mechanics of conducting an Every Member Canvass might be thoroughly explored by the congregation as one means of improving the present level of giving.

The vicar reports making an average of nine calls per week. The parish has been divided into zones with a captain for each zone. The parish is organized to allow for lay pastoral visitation and evangelism. Current efforts have been very encouraging. Newcomers are invited to participate in all activities of the various organizations in the congregation.

Parish promotion and publicity in this congregation is very good, with all communications media being utilized to keep members informed of the church's activities.

The congregation is listed as being community-minded, with the vicar participating actively in community affairs. Many members of the congregation are involved in civic organizations. The congregation's program for the community includes sponsorship of Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops as well as boys clubs and other youth programs. Various community organizations utilize facilities of the House of Prayer Church. The men's club, in particular, has been participating in meetings with other religious bodies with a view toward better serving their community. The vicar is a member of the Diocesan Youth Division and summer service project. Other members of the congregation participate in diocesan-sponsored programs.

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As far as the future policy, program, and budget of the House of Prayer Church is concerned, the Local Study Group lists its personnel needs as: a paid sexton, a part-time secretary, and a youth worker, possibly a church army worker. Other needs include improvements of the physical facilities of the church as well as the acquisition of equipment for office, church school, and recreational purposes. The major opportunity facing the congregation is that of becoming an effective instrument in its community. The major problem involves that of finances which are so necessary for the implementation of the program currently underway. The congregation is aware of the need for expanding its adult education and leadership training programs, as well as to increase and extend the level of personal involvement and commitment by its various members.

GENERAL DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND FIELD STUDY  
Episcopal Church Center  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10017

Date \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH SELF-STUDY FORM

I. IDENTIFICATION

Church House of Prayer

Street Church Lane at Linekiln Pike City Philadelphia

County Philadelphia Diocese Pennsylvania

Parish or Mission Aided-Parish State Pennsylvania

What geographic area does this church serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Olney Avenue 70th Avenue

12th Street

Chelton Avenue

II. THE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD

A. The church is located in a section of the city which is occupied by:

Downtown commercial uses \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial uses \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment dwellings x

Rooming houses \_\_\_\_\_ Single-home dwellings x A college \_\_\_\_\_ Military

uses \_\_\_\_\_ Other institutions \_\_\_\_\_

B. If more than one type is checked above, please clarify:

A number of apartment buildings in the area

C. Is the church neighborhood changing in any way? Describe:

Prisc - predominantly Jewish

Now - predominantly Negro

D. The following schools are located within the church neighborhood:

<u>PUBLIC GRADESCHOOLS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
<u>Jennell School - Elementary</u>	<u>Negro and Ogontz Aves.</u>
<u>Elwood School - Elementary</u>	<u>13th and Oak Lane Ave.</u>
<u>Kinsey School - Elementary</u>	<u>65th Ave. and Linekiln Pike</u>
<u>Julia Ward Howe - Elementary</u>	<u>13th and Grange Streets</u>
<u>Pastorius - Elementary K-1</u>	<u>Chelton Ave. and Sprague Street</u>
<u>Rowen - Elementary</u>	<u>19th and Haines Streets</u>

PUBLIC JUNIOR AND SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOLS

Wagner Jr. High

ADDRESS

14th and Chelten Ave.

Phila. High School for Girls

Broad Street and Olney Ave.

Central High School

Ozark and Olney Aves.

PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL NURSERY SCHOOLS

ADDRESS

Pastorius Child Care Center

Chelten Ave. and Sprague Street

PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL GRADE SCHOOLS

ADDRESS

St. Benedict

Medary and Opal Streets

Angela Domini

Church Lane and Wister Street

Holy Angels

70th and York Road

PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL JUNIOR AND SENIOR  
HIGH SCHOOLS

ADDRESS

JUNIOR COLLEGES AND COLLEGES

ADDRESS

La Salle College

Olney Avenue and 20th Street

2. The following churches are located within the church neighborhood:

NAME OF CHURCH AND DENOMINATION	ADDRESS
11nd Macedonia Baptist	16th and Champlott Ave.
Corinthian Baptist	21st and Godfrey Avenue
Trinity Methodist Episcopal	Woodstock and Godfrey Avenue
Holy Nativity Episcopal	2101 65th Ave.
Kemble Park Evangelical Congregational	Ogontz Ave. and Church Street
Immaculate Conception R.C.	Price and Ardleigh Streets
St. Benedict R.C.	1940 E. Chelton Ave.
Covenant Presbyterian	Limekiln Pike and Chelton Ave.
Redeemer United Presbyterian	Chew and Wister Streets
Advocate Lutheran	65th and Wyncoote Aves.
Emanu - El	York Rd. and Sterton
Ezrath Israel	69th and Ogontz Ave.
Temple Judea	6929 Broad Street
Heidelberg Evangelical and Reformed	broad and Grange
Ahavath Israel Cong. of Oak Lane	6817 N. 16th Street
Chelton Avenue Methodist	2145 E. Chelton Ave.
Grace Methodist	20th and Ogontz Ave.
Holy Angels Church	70th Ave. and York Road
Oak Lane Baptist	12th Street and Oak Lane
Heidelberg Lutheran	

### III. HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

Please write out a short history of this congregation. How was the work started? Give the important dates and events.

1835 - 1854: First services were held in a School house on Oak Lane, by the Rev. G. Sheets, of Trinity Church, Oxford. Discontinued when he moved from Oxford in 1854.

1857 - 1858: Mrs. Anna Meers opened a Sunday School in her own house, with 7 children. It grew rapidly and was moved to the upper room of the schoolhouse. Services were resumed in the school house by the Rev. E. V. Morris of St. Luke's Germantown, and in 1858 an organ was secured and a choir organized. In 1858 Mrs. Meers bought the land for a church and presented it to the Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, to be held in trust until a parish could be formed.

1860 - 1861: The status of a Mission was recognized for the congregation in 1860 and the Rev. Thomas G. Littell was put in charge of it on Nov. 25, 1860. This Mission was organized as a Parish on Dec. 28, 1860 and the Rev. Mr. Littell was elected its first rector. Took name of "House of Prayer". The first baptism was administered on Feb. 17, 1861, and the first service as a parish on June 9, 1861. First Holy Communion on July 21, 1861 and the first Confirmation (ten persons) on Aug. 30, 1861. Bishop Stevens officiating.

Erection of Buildings: The Church cornerstone was laid on Sept. 3, 1862 and the first service in the new building on July 12, 1863. It was consecrated by Bishop Stevens on July 14, 1863 with a good group of clergy from the Diocese attending. In 1875 to the east of the church a building was erected for the Sunday School and served as a parish house until the new Parish House was built in 1925. Then this Sunday School building was destroyed. In 1908 the Rectory was built. In 1925 the Parish House was built, necessitating the taking out of a Mortgage. R-4

#### IV. THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

##### A. Church properties:

1. Describe and give location of all land owned by the congregation, reporting the use of each parcel.

2. Type of church building: Frame \_\_\_\_\_ Brick \_\_\_\_\_ Stone x Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(type)

Describe the church building, giving number of sittings; condition of building; and improvements needed, with estimated cost:

(1893) sits 170 including choir. Condition: Fair.  
Needs: Additional seating within next five years. Adequate sacristy.  
new flooring and heating. Plumbing and toilet facilities (none in  
present building). Painted and calked. New and larger porch. Windows  
re-lined. Cementing steps and sidewalk blocks. \$30,000.00

Replacement Value \$50,000 Amount of insurance carried \$35

3. Type of parish hall or house: Attached \_\_\_\_\_ Separated x ;  
In basement of the church \_\_\_\_\_; Frame \_\_\_\_\_ Brick x  
Stone x Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(type)

Describe, giving the number of rooms, the condition of the building, and improvements needed, with the estimated cost.

(1925) two story building with false brick wall; original intention was  
to join the Church and Parish house. Condition: Interior poor (inferior  
construction). Rooms: Nursery in left with plywood walls; first floor -  
auditorium with stage and two rooms; Undercroft - auditorium, 2 rooms and  
kitchen. Needs: building presently sits upon the ground with a wood floor  
feeding termites. Undercroft needs total renovation of floors and wooden  
walls. Better use of space for classrooms on both floors with partitions  
put in. Ceilings could be lowered to add third floor and conserve heat.  
Replacement value \$75,000 Amount of insurance carried \$55,000  
Total rewiring and plumbing. \$20,000.

4. Type of rectory or clergy house: Attached \_\_\_\_\_ Separated x;  
Frame \_\_\_\_\_ Brick \_\_\_\_\_ Stone x Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(type)

Describe, giving the number of rooms, the condition of this building,  
and improvements needed, with estimated cost.

(1908) Condition: Fair 9 rooms, bath, and cellar.  
Needs: Modern bathroom; flooring re-done; cellar fixed; retaining wall  
at the back of property raised. \$5,000 - \$10,000.

Is it used as a clergy residence? Yes If not, what use is made of  
the building?

Replacement value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance carried: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe all other buildings owned or used by the congregation, giving  
(a) type of construction; (b) number of rooms; (c) condition;  
(d) improvements needed and estimated cost; (e) replacement value;  
(f) amount of insurance carried; and (g) present use.

B. Membership (secure from parish records):

1. Number of church families: Total number 85  
 Number of individuals not in families 27

Baptized membership			Communicants			Church School		
<u>1959</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>1960</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>1959</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>1960</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>1959</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>1960</u>	<u>Now</u>
<u>126</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>379</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>221</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>135</u>

3. Number of baptized members who were removed from the parish list	5 yrs. ago	4 yrs. ago	3 yrs. ago	2 yrs. ago	Last year
	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>19</u>
Number of baptized members who were added to the parish list	<u>23</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>81</u>

4. Communicants added:					
By confirmation from Episcopal families	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
By confirmation from other Churches (transfers)	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>30</u>
By reception from other Churches	<u>    </u>	<u>2</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
By baptism and confirmation from no church	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>23</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>30</u>

5. Attendance:

Number of communicants who attended regularly last year 95  
 Number of communicants who attended occasionally 72  
 Number who did not attend last year, but lived in the community 15

Number of communicants who did not live in the community, but were on the parish records, not transferred 10

6. How many persons attended the last annual business meeting? 58

## V. WORSHIP

A. List schedule of regular Sunday services, including church school:

TYPE OF SERVICE	HOUR	ATTENDANCE (Adults & Children)*		
		LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH
Holy Communion	8 a.m.	3	12	39
Church School	9:30 a.m.		95	121
Holy Communion (1 & 3)	11:00 a.m.	45	110	255
Morning Prayer (2 & 4)	11:00 a.m.	45	110	163
Baptism (4)				

\*Use figures from Church Service Register

B. Weekday services:

TYPE OF SERVICE	DAY AND HOUR	ATTENDANCE*		
		LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH
Holy Communion	10:00 a.m.	1	3	10

\*Use figures from the Church Service Register

C. Special services or missions held during the average year (including Lent):

Lent Thursday	7:45	9	19	35
(Holy Communion - Hymn Sing - Study)				
Reception		121		
Confirmation				205
Pageant		120		

D. Number and nature of services in which this congregation participates with other Episcopal congregations. State average attendance from this congregation:

B. Were changes or adjustments have been made in changing the hours or the format of services? Comment on results:

Evening service of Holy Communion - Thursday 8:00 p.m. - No interest

10:00 a.m. service month of August - eliminated 8 and 11:00 a.m. attendance fell off

Holy Communion on 1 and 3 Sundays at 11:00 o'clock instead of only first Sunday; vestments and some ritual added. Attendance average changed 55 to 110 in year's time.

Baptisms at 11:00 a.m. service 4th Sunday - appreciatively accepted

F. Additional information about Sunday services:

1. Are birthdays, anniversaries, and the departed regularly remembered? Yes
2. Is there a coffee or hospitality hour after any service? Yes - Lent 1964
3. Is baby care provided during any service? Yes 11:00 a.m.

## VI. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### A. Church School

## 1. Registration and attendance

a. Teachers and staff 10

b. Students	135
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Total 145

c. Lowest total classroom attendance during the past year 55

d. Highest total classroom attendance during the past year (except for Christmas and Easter) 105

e. Are absentee cards used? Yes

f. How many months of the year is the church school in operation? 11

g. If teachers call on students in case of absence, or for other reasons, please give details. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Worship schedule

[illegible]



4. List the teaching aids used, including audio-visual material.

Seabury Materials - Diocesan Audio-visual library

5. Describe the program for pre-school children.

Seabury Pre-school material - Take home cards - flannel board - nursery  
finger games, songs, rhymes, etc. - creative materials

6. Data on the teaching staff

a. How are teachers recruited? Through parish by superintendent and

vicar

b. Describe the way in which teachers are trained, giving the  
number of sessions, the leaders, etc. Three sessions prior to

opening of church school, discussing techniques and use of course material.

Very inadequate.

c. How are teachers assisted in the performance of their duties?

Classes visited by superintendent. Opportunity for consultation with vicar.

d. Summary of teachers' backgrounds

d. Summary of teachers' backgrounds					(Church School at House of Prayer)	
AGE		Number	EDUCATION	Number	YEARS TEACHING	Number
19 years or less		<u>2</u>	Grade school	<u>      </u>	one	<u>4</u>
20	to 29	<u>3</u>	Junior high	<u>      </u>	two	<u>1</u>
30	to 39	<u>4</u>	Senior high	<u>4</u>	three	<u>2</u>
			1 to 3 years			
40	to 49	<u>1</u>	College	<u>      </u>	four	<u>      </u>
50 years or more		<u>      </u>	College grad.	<u>6</u>	five	<u>5</u>
			Graduate study	<u>2</u>	6 to 10	<u>      </u>
Male		<u>4</u>			11 to 20	<u>      </u>
Female		<u>6</u>	K-12		20 and over	<u>      </u>

7. What problems does the church school have? \_\_\_\_\_

Inadequate training in teaching Church School

Classroom facilities are not ideal for teaching

Need equipment i.e. black boards or newsprint easels

B. Vacation Church School

1. When is it held? July - last two weeks

2. For how long each day? 3 hours

3. What type of courses are taught? First Year "Our Redeemer"

Faith and Life Series - V.B.S.

4. How many children attend, usually? 1963 - 93

5. How many of these children are regular pupils of this congregation's church school? 65

6. How many teachers are there? 8 : 5 assts.

C. Released Time Program

1. When are classes held? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What type of courses are taught? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many of this congregation's children attend? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the relationship of the teachers to this congregation?

5. What is the relationship of the released Time classes to the Christian education program of this congregation?

D. Day School: If the congregation has a day school, please fill out the Parochial School Report Form and submit it with this report.

## E. Confirmation Instruction

### 1. Children

- a. What is the usual age of confirmation? 12 b. How many instruction sessions are held? 4-5 mos. c. How long is each session? 1 hr. d. Who is the instructor? Vicar e. What material is used? "An Introduction to the Episcopal Church" Bernardin - Other resources f. What is the relationship of the confirmation class material to the regular church school curriculum? Combined senior high class with confirmation class.

### 2. Adults

- a. How many sessions are held? 16 b. How long is each session? 1 1/2 hours c. Who is the instructor? Vicar d. What material is used? "An Introduction to the Episcopal Church" Bernardin

## F. Adult Education

1. List the general adult education program in the congregation, including Bible classes, parents' classes, discussion groups, etc.

<u>NAME OF GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MEMBERS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MEETINGS</u>	<u>LENGTH OF MEETINGS</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
<u>Inquirer's Classes</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6 - 12</u>	<u>hour</u>	<u>Vicar</u>

2. What Retreats, missions, Quiet Days, etc., have the members participated in during the last two years? Estimate the total number of participants. \_\_\_\_\_

Lenten Study Program on Prayer - (60)

3. What leader- and participant-training programs have been held in the last two years, such as the Indiana Plan, Parish Life Conferences, Missions, and Institutes? Estimate the total number of participants.

None

4. How can the Christian education program of this congregation be strengthened?

- Setting up of study programs in the guilds

- Making study programs available to the parish in many fields. This is being done with this year's adult Confirmation Class.

- Making diocesan programs known to the parish.

VII. SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATIONS - Include, where applicable, vestry or bishop's committee, parish council, choirs, guilds, circles, ushers, acolytes (for men as well as boys), college work, etc.

A. For Women

1. Give the total number of adult women in the congregation. 90
2. Give the number of organizations for adult women. 3
3. Give the total active membership of all these organizations. 64

B. For Men

1. Give the total number of adult men in the congregation. 57
2. Give the number of organizations for adult men. 1
3. Give the total membership of all these organizations. 23

C. For Men and Women

1. Give the number of organizations for men and women. 2
2. Give the total active membership of all these organizations. 31

D. For Girls in:	<u>grade school</u>	<u>junior high</u>	<u>high school</u>
1. Total number of girls	---	---	---
2. Number of organizations	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
3. Total active membership	---	---	---

E. For Boys in:	<u>grade school</u>	<u>junior high</u>	<u>high school</u>
1. Total number of boys	---	---	---
2. Number of organizations	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
3. Total active membership	<u>30</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>

F. For Youth in:	<u>grade school</u>	<u>junior high</u>	<u>high school</u>
1. Number of organizations	---	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
2. Total active membership	---	---	<u>35</u>

N.B. Please make a separate report for each individual organization, using the format on the following pages.

# VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

- A. Name Episcopal Churchwomen of the Diocese of Pennsylvania - Women of the House of Prayer  
Total active members 21 Average attendance at meetings 12  
Number of meetings each month 1 Day and time of meetings 2nd Friday 8:00 p.m.
- B. Why does this organization exist?  
To Know Christ and Make Him Known
- C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?  
From the women of the congregation
- D. Describe the worship and the educational program.  
Devotions at our Meetings. Attending prayer groups and services in our own parish. Educational: Attending committee meeting at Church House also having speakers at our parish meetings.
- E. Describe the other activities of the organization.  
Diocesan sewing for missions - Money making ventures to raise money for our Missionary Objects and the parish.
- F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?  
To interest women in the work of the Church outside the parish - to make them more missionary minded
- G. What can be done for greater effectiveness?

Signed by: Ella M. Souder

Title: President

VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name Altar Guild

Total active members 5 Average attendance at meetings 5

Number of meetings each month Called mtra. Day and time of meetings \_\_\_\_\_

B. Why does this organization exist?

To keep the Church linen and furnishings in order. To adorn  
the Altar for all services.

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn? \_\_\_\_\_

Women

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

Raise money to carry expenses.

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

Caring for holy things we learn greater love for our Church.

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness? The expense should be in

the Church budget. The dignity of the work seems to be lost with  
money raising affairs.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mrs.) Bernice Richardson

Title: Chairman

VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name Men's Club of the House of Prayer Episcopal Church  
Total active members 26 Average attendance at meetings 15  
Number of meetings each month 1 Day and time of meetings Sunday 8:30 a.m.

B. Why does this organization exist?

To promote fellowship, work towards building a stronger church -- promote better understanding within the parish (community) -- to foster a keener religious spirit amongst the men.

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?

The male members - young and adult

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

Corporate Communion - regular church attendance. Proposed community relations and youth activities program in process.

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

Executing community and fellowship contacts with other church men's groups; participating in maintenance and improvement of the church property; assisting other church activities where possible.

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

Promote a better understanding of the church function amongst the men and male youth. Securing complete cooperation amongst the men.

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness? Initiate programs of activities

and projects of interest to the men.

Signed by:

William F. Carter  
William F. Carter

Title:

President

# VIII. REPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION

A. Name HOPE Guild

Total active members 14 Average attendance at meetings 10-12

Number of meetings each month 1 Day and time of meetings 1st Sunday  
1:00 p.m.

B. Why does this organization exist?

To financially and spiritually support the Church in its efforts to  
meet the many needs of its parishioners.

C. From what group in the congregation are the members drawn?

Women

D. Describe the worship and the educational program.

Corporate Communion and prayer at meetings

E. Describe the other activities of the organization.

Dinners, teas and Fashion Shows and Breakfasts

F. What are the major opportunities and problems of this organization?

a. Fellowship: to become better acquainted with other members of the church

b. To secure adequate leadership and get members to accept responsibility

G. What can be done for greater effectiveness?

Learn more about the church and its form of worship

Signed by:

Ethel E. Hurdle

Title: President

MOVED TO:

Rev. H.M. Gernand	40	1921 - 1931	
Rev. H.M. Stuckert	40	1931 - 1942	Grace Church, Haddonfield
Rev. A.W. Shick	62	1942 - 1957	Supply
Rt. Rev. W.P. Roberts	60	1951 - 1958	Retired
Rev. J.M. Harvey	33	1958 - 1960	Resurrection, Phila.
Rev. G.C. Mackling	49	1960 - 1962	All Souls Mission for the Deaf
Rev. P.M. Peterson	30	1962 - 1963	St. Thomas Phila. - Curate
Rev. J.F. Anderson	25	1963 -	

1. Does the present minister

the neighborhood? Yes

Does he give full time to  
does he serve, or what?

Yes, if not, what other church(es)

... gone into full time work for the  
for such work? 2

(2) Holy Orders

How many licenses?

... representation of? 1

... any members?

... other congregations? No

# X. FINANCE

A. Income (Last Full Year): (1) Pledges \$ 3253.25 (2) Plate offerings \$ 774.00 (3) Parish or mission organizations \$ 1043.37 (4) Endowments \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (5) Special fund drives \$ 813.73 (6) Other (please specify) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Disbursements

Total current expenses

Diocesan Assessment

Missionary Disbursements

Special parish expense

Clergy salary or salaries:  
from congregation

from other sources

Rental value of the rectory

Is the church in debt?

Amount of debt \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Method of repayment \_\_\_\_\_

	1950	1951	1954	1959	Last Full Year
	174	250	1775	2960	
3423.00		2971.21	6343.96	8662.52	9579.47
131.32		169.29	67.96		117.00
160.80		330.00	600.00	1004.92	823.00
10.00			1994.40		877.25
a) 1271.55		775.00	120.00	225.00	1775.00
b) _____					
a) 798.00				1016.64	2025.00
b) _____					

## Finance (cont'd)

7. Is a thorough Every Member Canvass conducted each year. 1963-64 Yes  
 If yes, by mail or personal solicitation? Both Describe the  
 training of the canvassers. Four sessions: What is an E.M.C.? What do  
we have to accomplish? The parish budget and life. How to make a call?  
Commitment

8. What other means of fund raising or stewardship education are used?  
Sacred Design - Canvass Aids - Audio-visuals - Take-home Bulletin  
Figures

9. If this is a mission or aided parish, what is the potential for self-  
 support? Very good. within the next 5 years. Difficulty will arise  
only with needed repairs to the buildings.

10. Additional comments or information on finances:

Finances are picking up, but so is program

	Receipts	Disbursements
1961	<u>\$7348.66</u>	<u>\$7327.55</u>
1962	<u>6836.14</u>	<u>6308.22</u>
1963	<u>9531.32</u>	<u>9579.47</u>

### C. Travel:

- Does the priest have a car? Yes
- By whom is the car purchased? Priest X Congregation    Diocese
- How much is the annual operating expense of the car, omitting depreciation? \$ 375.00
- By whom is the operating expense paid? Priest
- How much does the local congregation pay? None
- Average number of miles traveled per month on church business 450

# XI. CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM AND VISITATION

## A. Clergy pastoral calling during the past year by rector or vicar:\*

TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF CALLS PER WEEK		
	LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH
1. Family or routine parish	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
2. Sick or emergency	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
3. Calls for other purposes	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
4. Time set aside for pastoral calling:			

Free day hours, at least one evening a week.

## 5. How do the clergy organize their parish calling? \_\_\_\_\_

Zones covering people in a certain area. Those who have requested a special visit or seem to have a problem.

## 6. How do the clergy organize their calling on the unchurched and newcomers? \_\_\_\_\_

One day and evening a week. Any other free time when in the street.

## 7. Time spent in pastoral counseling (average hours per week) 4

\* Please give similar information, separately, for other clergy.

## B. Lay calling:

### 1. Describe the Zone or Neighborhood Organization. \_\_\_\_\_

Parish is divided up into zones with a captain in charge of a certain number of people in an area. Captain calls on them concerning attendance and finance.

### 2. Describe the program of lay pastoral visitation, including the number of participants and the time spent.

Individuals living in a block cover that block one evening a week. Refer all unchurched people to the vicar. Program is moving throughout the parish.

3. Describe the program of lay evangelism (including the congregation's approach to newcomers and to the unchurched), giving the number of participants and the amount of time. \_\_\_\_\_

see # 2

size of the church building and is a warren and makes unfriendliness almost impossible. Many newcomers speak of the warmth of the parish.

4. How are newcomers integrated into the life of this congregation?

Newcomers are welcomed to join all organizations and participate fully in the church life prior to becoming a member.

5. Describe any religious census of the area made by the congregation itself or with other churches during the last ten years.

Only that which is being done now through our lay evangelism.

## XII. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. What use is made of the press? All parish events are sent in and often reported.

- B. What use is made of radio and/or television? Likewise radio.

- C. What use is made of the U.S. Mail? Co-operate with another parish to receive bulk mailing rates.

- D. Describe the regular publications which are mailed or distributed, including Sunday bulletins, parish newsletters, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Parish newspaper is sent out bi-monthly. News of the parish and educational matter. Sunday bulletin - parish notices.

- E. How many church road signs are there? 1 need 3 more

### XIII. NEIGHBORHOOD OR COMMUNITY

A. Is this congregation community-minded? How is?

B. Describe the clergy participation in community affairs. \_\_\_\_\_

Meets and participates with a number of the civic groups. Speaks of the  
community and social problems from the pulpit.

C. Describe the participation of the congregation in community affairs. \_\_\_\_\_

Realizing more aware of their responsibilities to the community. Many  
members are becoming involved in civic organizations, local politics, etc.

D. Describe the general parish program for the community (including such church-sponsored programs as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.):

Browlie Troop

West Oak Lane Boys Club (garr)

Junior Girl Scout Troop

Vacation Bible School

Cub Scout Pack

Summer Youth Program

Boy Scout Troop

Youth Fellowship

E. List community organizations using the parish hall and its facilities:

(3) Civic Groups

3 C's Youth Group

Available for teas and community programs

F. Describe the way in which the congregation cooperates with other religious bodies:

Men's Club is beginning to have joint meetings with the neighboring churches  
and synagogues to discuss community programs.

XIV. PARTICIPATION IN DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL CHURCH PROGRAMS:

A. What offices do the clergy hold in the diocese, missionary district, or National Church? Diocesan Youth Division - Trainer

Summer Service Project - Trainer

B. What offices do the lay people hold in the diocese, missionary district, or National Church? \_\_\_\_\_

C. What diocesan or National Church programs have directly benefited this congregation? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Describe the men's participation in diocesan programs: \_\_\_\_\_

George Washington and Corporate Communion and Breakfast

E. Describe the women's participation in diocesan programs: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocesan Episcopal Church Women

Diocesan Altar Guild

United Thank Offering and Service

F. Describe youth participation in diocesan programs: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth conferences, Vite Fox Presentation Offering and Service

Diocesan Youth Service

G. Does this congregation pay its full Missionary share or quota? Yes

H. What percent of the congregation's budget goes for missionary work. 12%

XV. STAFF

- A. List all paid personnel working for this congregation, giving title, function, and salary, and telling whether full or part-time.

Vicar \$4,500 - full time

Choir Director \$500 - part time

Organist \$250 and lessons - part time

- B. Describe the use of volunteer personnel by this congregation.

Sexton 7 days a week; 4 hours a day

Secretary - generally available

XVI. FUTURE POLICY, PROGRAM, AND BUDGET

- A. In adopting a policy for an expanded program for this congregation, in order to vitalize its Christian witness to the community; to extend its outreach of Christian fellowship to all the unchurched; to increase initiative and responsibility for all members of the congregation; to develop local financial resources with a view towards self-support and parochial status (if not already attained); and to further other essential advances, what are the immediate needs as to:

1. Personnel: Sexton - paid  
Secretary - full-time  
Youth worker (might be a Church Army Man) (dreaming)
2. Buildings: Make necessary improvements (K-:) as finances become available. Increase size of the parish house (to include community center and recreational facilities) and church (350)
3. Equipment: Blackboards and educational equipment. Recreational equipment. Office equipment, especially typewriter.

- B. What are the major opportunities that face this congregation?

To become the community church and at the same time become a parish.

- C. What are the major problems that face this congregation?

Finances to put on a program that is already in advance of its budget, and yet has only reached the stage at which it should have been yesterday.

- D. What program needs seem evident on the basis of this Study?

More adult programs, particularly in terms of Christian Education and spiritual life. Leadership training.

- E. What would be the approximate capital cost to meet these needs?

\$150,000 - \$12,000.

F. What would be the annual operating budget to maintain the program?

\$35,000 - \$45,000

G. What steps are now being taken locally to meet these needs and opportunities?

Report has been made to the Dept. of Missions for a new church building.

Report to be made to Congregation concerning land next to ours and a

building up for sale (est. \$125,000), zoned commercial.

H. What steps are now being taken by the diocese or district, or might be taken, to assist in meeting these needs and opportunities?

Congregation is attempting to pick up pledges to the point of attaining

parish status, all moving towards at least a \$1 tithe. Program is con-

tinuing to grow in present facilities.

I. Further data or comment on the general needs and problems of this congregation:

The program and output have increased tremendously in one year - prior

to the summer of 1963 the buildings were seldom open, nor had any

intensive E.M.C. been given in 5 years. A lot of education must still  
be done.

The data in this report were furnished by the following committee:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF YEARS IN PARISH</u>
<u>The Rev. Jesse F. Anderson</u>	<u>Vicar</u>	<u>One year</u>
<u>Robert E. Hite, Jr.</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Charles Richardson, Jr.</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Mrs. Frank Robinson</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Elmore Engelking</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Vestry Board and Guild Pres.</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

idents  
Date completed: May 20, 1964

REPORTED MEMBERSHIP FROM MAPS

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The membership map submitted by this congregation locates a total of 379 persons who look to the House of Prayer Church for spiritual guidance. Of these individuals, 190, representing 50.1% of the total mapped membership, reside in Census Tract 49-C. A total of 94 persons, comprising 24.8% of the membership, are located in Census Tract 49-B, which includes the House of Prayer Church. Other major clusters are found in Census Tracts 50-N and 50-P.

Details of the membership distribution pattern for this congregation may be observed in the table on the following page.

### MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION TABLE

PARISH PHILADELPHIA

HOUSE OF PRAYER

CENSUS TRACT OR AREA		NUMBER OF MAPPED MEMBERS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MAPPED MEMBERSHIP
	22L	6	1.6
	22N	3	.8
	22P	1	.3
	35C	1	.3
	38G	3	.8
	38I	2	.5
	49A	5	1.3
X	49B	94	24.8
	49C	190	50.1
	49D	1	.3
	50E	1	.3
	50J	1	.3
	50M	4	1.0
	50N	30	7.9
	50P	25	6.6
	59D	2	.5
	OUT STATE	10	2.6
		379	100.0

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL DATA FROM JOURNALS

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During the decade between 1950 and 1960, the baptized membership of the House of Prayer Church decreased by 20.4%, going from 250 members in 1950 to 199 in 1960. Since 1961 there has been a steady increase in baptized membership. During the same decade, communicant strength also decreased, going from 167 communicants in 1950 to 147 in 1960. As in the case of the baptized membership, communicant strength has been on the increase in the three-year period between 1961 and 1963. Church school enrollment increased by 135.7% during the decade between 1950 and 1960, going from 28 in 1950 to 66 in 1960. Following a pattern similar to the baptized membership and communicant strength, church school enrollment increased in the three-year period between 1961 and 1963.

During 1961 to 1963, a total of 52 persons were baptized in the House of Prayer Church. These individuals constituted 8.5% of the communicant strength of the congregation. For purposes of comparison, the Olney-Oak Lane area percentage was 2.8%, the county average was 3.7% and the diocesan average was 3.9%. In the same three years between 1961 and 1963, 41 persons were confirmed. These represented 6.7% of the communicant strength. For further comparison, the area average was 2.9%, while the county average was 3.1% and the diocesan average 4.1%.

Total reported expenditures in the three years between 1961 and 1963 amounted to \$20,187.00. Of this amount, \$3,047.00, or 15.1% of the expenditures, was used for purposes beyond the confines of the parish. This may be compared with the area average

# VITAL STATISTICS

PARISH HOUSE OF PRAYER TOWN PHILADELPHIA  
 COUNTY PHILADELPHIA DIOCESE PENNSYLVANIA

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	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962	1963
Baptized Members *	228	300	250	198	199	210	256	287
Communicants	228	230	167	104	147	170	209	230
Church School	34	54	28	-	66	75	80	128
Baptisms	5	5	4	5	11	7	23	22
Percentage of Communicants	2.2	2.2	2.4	4.8	7.5	4.1	11.0	9.6
Confirmations	5	9	10	-	22	8	33	-
Percentage of Communicants	2.2	3.9	6.0	-	15.0	4.7	15.8	-
Parochial Expenditures 1	2,829	4,189	4,648	3,273	6,493	5,789	-	7490
Special Par. Expenditures 2	1,142	1,076	1,094	3,095	794	1,100	1140	1621
Extra-parochial Expenditures 3	199	691	546	961	1,388	1,099	1082	866
Total Reported Expenditures	4,170	5,956	6,288	7,329	8,675	7,988	2,222	9977
Expenditures per Communicant	18.29	25.90	37.65	70.47	59.01	46.99	10.63	43.38
Extra-parochial Expenditures per Communicant	0.87	3.00	3.27	9.24	9.44	6.46	5.18	3.77

\* GDRFS ESTIMATE 175 REPORTED

- 1 Includes clergy salary, current expense, pension premium, and Diocesan assessment.
- 2 Special parish purposes, including capital expenditures.
- 3 Includes Church's Program, special outside.

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of 12.5%, the county average of 12.2%, and the diocesan average of 14.2%. When computed on an individual basis, extra-parochial expenditures per communicant amounted to \$5.00. The area average was \$6.77, the county average was \$9.57, and the diocesan average was \$10.45. Expenditures per communicant at the House of Prayer Church amounted to \$33.15, which may be compared with the area average of \$53.96. The corresponding county average was \$78.57 while the diocesan average was \$73.71. These figures tend to confirm the need of raising the level of stewardship of the members of the congregation.

DATA ON THE CONGREGATION

A total of 213 persons cooperated in the Episcopal Census for this congregation. These individuals constitute too small a portion of the mapped membership of 379, and the Self-Study figure of 378, to allow for any valid analysis of the profile of the congregation. The following paragraphs, consequently, are intended to summarize the major aspects of the census.

A total of 200 persons is tabulated on the age and sex chart. Of this number 100 were males and 100 were females. In addition, 53 were children under 10 years of age, 37 were older children and teen-agers, 18 were adults in their 20's, 40 were adults in their 30's, 35 were adults in their 40's, 13 were adults in their 50's, two were adults in their 60's, and two were adults 70 years of age and over.

Of 172 persons reporting on their occupations, 95 were not gainfully employed: 28 were pre-students, 43 were students, 20 were housewives, and four were retired. Of the 77 gainfully employed individuals, clerical workers comprised the largest group with 25, followed by professionals with 21 and sales workers with 16.

A total of 209 adults 25 years of age and over reported on their education. Of this number, 22 were college graduates, 17 had received from one to three years of college training, 54 were high school graduates,

34 had received from one to three years of high school education, 17 had received from five to eight years of elementary training, 29 had received from one to four years of elementary education and 32 listed no formal education.

Of 220 persons reporting on their nativity, all were born within the United States, and 116 were born in the State of Pennsylvania.

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A total of 211 individuals reported on their nationality background. 207 were Negro, one was Anglo-Saxon, and three were Asian.

Of 118 persons reporting on their length of membership in this congregation, 86 had been members less than five years, 18 between five and nine years, nine between 10 and 14 years, one between 15 and 19 years, and four had been members 20 years or more.

A total of 48 families reported on the number of children residing in their households. 11 listed one child, 16 had two children, 11 had three children, six had four children, and four families had four or more children.

## DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### HOUSE OF PRAYER CHURCH, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The congregation of the House of Prayer Church traces its history back to the year 1835. It was organized as a mission in 1860, and became an aided parish in 1960. The church is located in an area currently experiencing shifts in population, with the concomitant problems created by these shifts being reflected in the life of the Church.

During the decade between 1950 and 1960, baptized membership decreased by 20.4%, going down from 250 in 1950 to 199 in 1960. Communicant strength also decreased declining by 12.0% during the same period. Church school enrollment, however, showed an increase. The size of the baptized membership, communicant strength, and church school enrollment have steadily increased during the last four years. The Church Self-Study Form, and opinions expressed at the time of the visitation meeting, suggest that the recent constancy of growth is a result of the concern, interest, and efforts of the present priestly and lay leadership of the congregation.

Pages K-5 and K-6 of the Church Self-Study Form provide a description of the church properties and program of insurance. All buildings -- church, rectory, and parish house -- are in poor condition and in need of repair. The church building, in particular, has no plumbing or toilet facilities. The program of insurance coverage is approximately 70.3% of the total estimated replacement value of all church properties, and should be reviewed in order to make it more realistic.

The congregation is to be commended for its efforts in the church school, despite the limitations of inadequate facilities, and the need of new equipment.

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Present efforts in the recruitment, training, and supervision of teaching personnel should be intensified. The congregation might wish to consider the establishment of a commission on Christian Education. This commission would be responsible, in consultation with the rector, for the totality of the church school program, as well as the program of adult education in the parish-at-large.

Several portions of the Church Self-Study Form suggest that this congregation is becoming more and more aware of its opportunities for making the church a focal point in the life of its members. Also, at the time of the visitation meeting, this awareness of the need for extending the level of personal involvement was manifested. It is observed that the church presently operates a Vacation Church School and a Tutorial School, the latter emphasizing all areas of elementary and high school subjects. This is a most commendable effort.

This congregation is one of tremendous potential: a capable priest, a few dedicated individuals, and a significant portion of its membership highly trained. These advantages should be capitalized upon in the development of the church's future program. In this connection, the General Division of Research and Field Study recommends that the congregation reconsider its organizational structure. A commission-type plan might prove very effective in that it provides for mixed groupings and appeals to a more varied membership, thus making it possible for wider participation in the opportunities for extending Christian commitment and fellowship through worship and service. Commissions might include: Christian education, stewardship, evangelism and recruitment, study and fellowship, and youth activities. In addition, an over-arching body -- Parish Welfare Council -- consisting of the leadership of the various commissions, should be organized to coordinate the activities of the various commissions.

In terms of the foregoing paragraph, the General Division of Research and Field Study wishes to call the congregation's at-

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tention to the present financial picture. Of an income of \$6,585.04, \$3,953.85, or 60.0%, is received through pledges. Computed on an individual basis, the average pledge per communicant is approximately \$17.89 which is quite below the national average of \$56.00. Despite the slight increase recorded during 1964, the level of giving remains low. The Stewardship Commission, enlarging upon present efforts, could institute a year-round program of education, with the emphasis on the meaning of stewardship as an act of worship and an act of thanksgiving. The stewardship education cannot be over-emphasized, particularly because the successful execution of any future program will require an improvement in the financial situation.

The General Division of Research and Field Study wishes to call one other important factor to the attention of this congregation. Because of present conditions existing in the operation of the Church of the Holy Nativity, located to the northwest, a merger of these two congregations has been recommended to the diocese. The House of Prayer Church should very seriously consider this matter, especially in view of the tremendous cost involved in renovating and up-dating its present facilities. A special committee from the congregation might enter into dialogue with diocesan officials regarding the feasibility of such a merger.

The General Division of Research and Field Study commends the congregation of the House of Prayer Church for the very effective work done in the past three years.